

Appl. No. 10/750,726
Amdt dated October 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 13, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims

| | | |
|--------------|---|-------------------|
| Claim 1 | - | Currently Amended |
| Claim 2 | - | Original |
| Claim 3 | - | Canceled |
| Claims 4-5 | - | Original |
| Claim 6 | - | Currently Amended |
| Claim 7 | - | Original |
| Claim 8 | - | Canceled |
| Claim 9 | - | Currently Amended |
| Claim 10 | - | Canceled |
| Claims 11-12 | - | Currently Amended |

Claims

1. (Currently amended) In combination,

a plurality of sheets of paper disposed one atop another to form a stack having top and bottom sheets and defining a binding edge of said stack, an opposite edge of said stack parallel to said binding edge, and a narrow binding margin on said stack adjacent to said binding edge;

a document binder formed of a single sheet of flat, expansive material, folded to delineate a plurality of panels including a back binding panel located beneath said stack and extending beneath said binding margin, a narrow binding panel joined to said back binding panel and residing above said stack and said narrow binding margin thereof and having a width no greater than the width of said binding margin, a binding return panel joined to said narrow binding panel at a return fold and located beneath said narrow binding panel and projecting from said return fold back toward said binding edge of said stack, and a top binding panel located atop said stack above said top sheet thereof and beneath said binding return panel and delineated therefrom by a margin fold and extending from the proximity of said binding edge of said stack across said top sheet to at least said opposite edge of said stack, wherein said binding return panel has a downwardly facing surface secured throughout to said top binding panel in face-to-face relationship therewith between said return fold and said margin fold; and

20 a stiff, resilient, elongated channel-shaped clasp of uniform cross
section throughout formed with a pair of jaws joined together and projecting outwardly
from their junction to define a gap therebetween, and at least one of said jaws terminates in
a hooked lip, and said binding edge of said stack is inserted into said gap so that said
hooked lip is engaged with said document binder at said return fold therein to restrict
relative movement between said clasp and said stack in a direction perpendicular to said
25 binding edge, and said clasp has sufficient stiffness so that said jaws clamp said sheets of
paper together between said top and back binding panels of said document binder, and said
clasp is detachable from said document binder to permit separation of said plurality of said
sheets of paper from said binder.

2. (Original) A combination according to Claim 1 wherein each of said jaws of
said clasp terminates in a hooked lip as aforesaid.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) A combination according to Claim 1 wherein said top panel and
said return panel are secured together throughout the width of said binding margin in said
stack by a layer of adhesive interposed therebetween.

5. (Original) A combination according to Claim 1 wherein said top panel and
said return panel are secured together throughout the width of said binding margin in said
stack by heat sealing.

6. (Currently Amended) In combination,

a plurality of pages disposed one atop another to form a stack having top and bottom sheets and defining a binding edge of said stack, an opposite edge of said stack parallel to said binding edge, and a narrow binding margin on said stack adjacent to said binding edge;

a binding for said stack formed of a single, expansive sheet of material and including top and bottom face panels respectively overlying said top and bottom sheets of said stack and joined together by at least one spine fold located at and parallel to said binding edge of said stack, and a narrow margin panel that is joined to said bottom face panel and extends the length of said binding margin and is limited in width so that it extends no further toward said opposite edge of said stack than said binding margin and thereby defines an inboard boundary proximate said binding margin, and a return panel residing between said narrow margin panel and said top face panel and joined to said narrow margin panel by a return fold located at said inboard boundary and joined to said top face panel by a binding edge fold located proximate said binding edge of said stack, wherein said return panel has a downwardly facing surface secured throughout to said top face panel in face-to-face relationship therewith between said return fold and said binding edge fold; and

a stiff, resilient, elongated clasp of uniform cross section throughout and

20 formed as a channel-shaped structure having a pair of opposing jaws that have mutually
facing surfaces which define a slot opening therebetween, and at least one of said jaws
terminates in an inwardly turned hooked lip, and said clasp is disposed to capture said
binding therewithin, whereby said hooked lip of said clasp engages said return fold in said
binding at said inboard boundary of said narrow margin panel, thereby holding said clasp
25 on said binding edge of said stack, and said jaws are biased toward each other with
sufficient force to clamp said plurality of pages together without the necessity of any
binding margin fastener through said plurality of pages.

7. (Original) A combination according to Claim 6 wherein both of said jaws of
said clasp are provided with hooked lips, and said hooked lips faced each other across said
slot opening.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) In combination,

a plurality of sheets of paper disposed one atop another to form a stack
having top and bottom sheets and defining a binding edge of said stack, an opposite edge
parallel to said binding edge, and a narrow binding edge margin on said stack adjacent to
5 said binding edge;

a document binder formed of a single sheet of flat material folded to
delineate a plurality of panels including a top binding panel located atop said stack and

extending from said opposite edge of said stack across said binding margin to terminate at a binding margin fold, a narrow return panel extending from said binding margin fold across
10 said binding margin toward said opposite edge and terminating at a return fold, a narrow binding margin panel located atop said return panel and covering said return panel and extending beyond said binding edge of said stack and terminating at a spine fold, wherein said return panel has an upwardly facing surface residing in contact with said margin panel and a downwardly facing surface residing in contact with and sealed throughout to said top
15 face panel, and a back binding panel joined to said binding margin panel by said spine fold so as to extend beneath said stack and said stack is located between said top and back binding panels;

an elongated document binder clasp configured as a stiff, resilient, channel-shaped structure defining a pair of mutually facing jaws that define a gap
20 therebetween; and

wherein at least one of said jaws has a hooked lip, and said binder clasp clamps said plurality of sheets of paper together at said binding edge margin of said stack, and said hooked lip engages said document binder at said return fold throughout the length of said binding margin, whereby said jaws are biased toward each other with sufficient
25 force to clamp said plurality of pages together without the necessity of any binding margin fastener through said plurality of pages.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A combination according to ~~Claim 10~~ Claim 9 wherein said downwardly facing surface of said return panel is secured by adhesive to said top face panel throughout the length of said narrow binding margin on said stack.

5 12. (Currently Amended) A combination according to ~~Claim 10~~ Claim 9 wherein said downwardly facing surface of said return panel is secured by heat sealing to said top face panel throughout the length of said narrow binding margin on said stack.